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CONFERENCE
INTERNATIONALE
DES ARTISTES

REPORT OF THE MUSIC
COMMITTEE

Chairman : Mr. Francesco Palipiere

Rapporteur : Mr. Guillaume Landré

The Committee took Mr. Arthur Honegger's opening address on "The Musician in Modern Society" as a basic document for its work. Papers submitted by various members of the Committee, (including Austria, Japan and Yugoslavia) also provided useful and interesting material for the discussion.

The Committee began by examining the first item on its working plan: musical education. The Committee was unanimous in recognising the vital importance of education in musical training. All agreed that this education must begin at a very early age - at the primary, or even kindergarten stage. But whilst children must be educated, and taught to "hear music" the Committee also wishes to emphasize that the training of teachers in musical understanding in the broadest sense of the term is equally important. The Committee, which is formed of composers, does not consider itself competent to legislate on questions of musical education. On this subject, it adopted a resolution of a general character for wide application (Resolution No. 1)

The Committee then attacked the subject of the dissemination of musical works, making a lengthy study of the development of the exchange of musical works and their performance internationally. Reports on activities undertaken in this domain, were submitted by the International Music Council and the International Society for Contemporary Music. The present difficulties of the latter were discussed; and the Committee expressed the hope that the International Society for Contemporary Music would be able, under a new guise, to resume the effective work it had done in the past - perhaps in collaboration with the International Music Council. The latter might act as the central exchange and information body for which several members of the Committee had appealed, to offset the inadequacies of the competent authorities, and the disadvantages of a musical policy all too often biased. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended the promotion of bodies such as the International Society for Contemporary Music, for example (Resolution No. 2).

The Committee next dealt with the question of the reproduction of music firstly on gramophone records, and secondly on films. As regards the latter, the Committee was sceptical about

the value of this method; in most cases, up till now at any rate, films have proved to do a disservice to both musician and the music.

On the other hand, the Committee recognized the all important role played by records in the musical life of the modern world, and their contribution to the dissemination of contemporary music. The International Music Council, through a selection committee, composed of representatives of the musical world and of the record-making industry, is responsible every year for the recording of a number of little known and contemporary works of a universal value. This work should be expanded.

On the other hand, the commercial exchange of records should be developed and facilitated. There are still too many customs and fiscal obstacles. Bearing in mind the existing agreement for the importation of educational, scientific, and cultural material, the Committee adopted a resolution to this effect (Resolution No. 3).

The Committee further recommended that composers should be protected against damage to their interests due to private persons recording music broadcast over the radio. (Resolution No.4)

With the use of modern techniques, it should be possible greatly to expand the reproduction and dissemination of contemporary music scores. The Committee studied the work of the International Music Council in this field (reproduction of scores of young composers' work); the system of reproducing scores on microfilms adopted in the Netherlands (Denemus) and Belgium; and finally the International Centre for Musical Documentation recently established. The Committee hopes that these activities will be extended and multiplied. (Resolution No.5)

Reproduction of musical scores alone is, however, by itself not sufficient to ensure the dissemination of contemporary musical works; they must also be performed. In many countries (Belgium, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, etc.,) this is done by means of the radio; regular programmes being devoted to contemporary music and first performances. The Committee wishes; however, to stress that radio broadcasting may be accompanied by certain disadvantages - for instance that of depriving the listener of first-hand experience of the work. Public performances should be more frequent; and contacts between the various musical societies and the broadcasting authorities closer. (Resolution No.6)

The Committee then considered the international position of composers. It was pleased to note that, thanks to Unesco, composers now have a competent and truly international body dealing with their special problems : the International Music Council. This organization forms the desired intermediary between musicians and Unesco on the one hand, and between Unesco and the various member-states on the other. Nevertheless, the Committee recommended that an organisation should be set up in every country for composers on the model of the Council of Composers of the nordic countries, for example, (Resolution No.7)

Before dispersing, the Committee considered the draft Resolution concerning the establishment of an International Council of Arts and Letters, which had been submitted to it. This draft, presented by the President of the International Theatre Institute, the President of the International Music Council, and the Secretary-General of the PEN Club was received by the Committee with certain reservations: it was thought that an organization covering so many different branches of artistic activity might prove ineffective. It might be expedient, however, to establish an organisation of this kind provided its functions were confined to liaison only. The Committee decided to approve the principle of the proposed Council; and recommended that the plan should be examined.